

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1934
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL TANGIER
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 2718

PARIS FOR HOROWITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MO, US, XF
SUBJECT: ILO CONSULTATIONS MOROCCO DANIEL L. HOROWITZ

1. SUMMARY: DURING CONSULTATIONS WITH FOREIGN AND LABOR MINISTRY
OFFICIALS MAY 17 AND 18, HOROWITZ MET WITH SYMPATHETIC UNDER-
STANDING AND SUPPORT FOR AMERICAN POSITIONS OUTLINED IN USG
NOVEMBER 1975 LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO.

2. MINISTRY OF LABOR MOHAMED AL-ARBI KHATTABI IN 90 MINUTE
MEETING WITH HOROWITZ AND AMBASSADOR MAY 18 STRESSED THAT GOM
STRONGLY OPPOSED TO POLITICIZATION ILO, AND THAT US WITHDRAWAL
WOULD BE QUOTE CATASTROPHIC UNQUOTE FOR ILO AS IT WOULD LEAVE
COMMUNIST AND RADICAL MEMBERS IN CONTROL LEADING WAY TO COMPLETE
SUBVERSION ILO AND ISOLATION MODERATES LIKE MOROCCO.

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3. KHATTABI SAID EGYPTIANS WILL PLAY KEY ROLE IN DETERMINING
ARAB POSITION AT CONFERENCE AS WELL AS SAUDIS, ESPECIALLY WITH
AFRICAN MEMBERS WHO DEPEND ON SAUDI ASSISTANCE.

4. MINISTER DISCLOSED THAT GOM SUPPORTS AMENDMENT 17 AND
ITS REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE ON STANDING ORDERS (AS OPPOSED TO
COMMITTEE ON STRUCTURE RECOMMENDED BY RECENT AFRICAN LABOR

MINISTER CONFERENCE IN TRIPOLI WHICH GOM DID NOT ATTEND BECAUSE OF ITS TEMPORARY SUSPENSION FROM OAU ACTIVITIES.

5. LABOR MINISTER SAID THAT MOROCCO OPPOSED CONDEMNATION MEMBER COUNTRIES WITHOUT INVESTIGATION BUT POINTED OUT THAT GOM WAS ALSO OPPOSED TO ILO INVESTIGATION TEAM IN ISRAELI-OCCUPIED TERRITORIES SINCE PRESENCE OF ISRAEL WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR FAIR INVESTIGATION TO TAKE PLACE (NOTE: MINISTER DID NOT BASE OBJECTION ON JURIDICAL GROUNDS). KHATTABI SAID THAT GOM WOULD PREFER THAT NO RESOLUTIONS CONDEMNING LABOR CONDITIONS IN ISRAELI OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BE PASSED, AND THAT PALESTINE ISSUE BE DISPOSED OF THROUGH PLO OBSERVER DELEGATION STATEMENT AND ARAB SPEECHMAKING WITHOUT FORMAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTION.

6. SURPRISINGLY, KHATTABI DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT MAY 30 ILO ARAB CAUCUS WILL DEAL WITH ANY OF THESE ISSUES BUT WILL BE ABSORBED INSTEAD WITH NONPOLITICAL AGENDA ITEMS SUCH AS CHOICE OF CONFERENCE PRESIDENT. FOR THIS REASON LABOR MINISTER URGED THAT US SHOULD TRY TO HAVE CONSIDERATION AMENDMENT 17 AND OTHER SENSITIVE ISSUES DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER JUNE 5 TO GIVE ARAB MODERATES TIME TO LOBBY FOR THEIR VIEWPOINT. HOROWITZ TOLD KHATTABI THAT AMENDMENT ISSUE WOULD ARISE AT OUTSET OF CONFERENCE. KHATTABI DISCLOSED THAT HE WILL NOT ARRIVE AT CONFERENCE UNTIL JUNE 5TH BECAUSE OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS TAKING PLACE IN MOROCCO JUNE 3RD.

7. DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, ABDELLAH BENKIRANE, IN COURSE DISCUSSION WITH HOROWITZ MAY 17 SAID THAT GOM LABOR MINISTER KHATTABI IS KEY OFFICIAL IN CONFIDENTIAL

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MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT FOR ELABORATION GOM ILO POSITIONS (AS AMBASSADOR HAD EARLIER SUGGESTED). BENKIRANE TOLD HOROWITZ THAT HE WOULD SEND INSTRUCTION TO GOM DELEGATION ASKING THEM TO CONSULT WITH USG DELEGATE BEFORE CONFERENCE.

8. OBVIOUS FROM CONSULTATIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND LABOR MINISTER THAT GOM SHARES USG CONCERN OVER SUBVERSION ILO OPERATIONS AND THAT WHILE GOM WILL PRESS FOR MODERATION ILO OPERATIONS MOROCCO CANNOT ISOLATE ITSELF FROM OTHER ARAB MEMBERS ON PALESTINE ISSUE. EGYPTIAN AND SAUDI INITIATIVES KEY TO ELABORATION MODERATE ARAB STANCE AT CONFERENCE.

9. MINISTRY LABOR HAS COMMUNICATED ILO CONFERENCE DELEGATIONS AS FOLLOWS:

A) GOVERNMENT DELEGATES: JAFFAR OUAIJOU, SEC GEN, MINISTRY LABOR; ALI SKALLI, MOROCCAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, GENEVA.

B) GOVERNMENT ADVISORS: ABDELKADER BENHIDA, CHEF DE CABINET,

MINISTRY LABOR; MAHMOUD M. HAKKOU, DIRECTOR FOR GENERAL AFFAIRS,
MINISTRY LABOR; SIDI MOHAMED RAHHALI, SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AT MOROCCAN PERMANENT MISSION AT GENEVA; SALAH GEMILY,
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRY, SECRETARIAT
GENERAL OF THE GOVERNMENT (PUBLIC FUNCTIONS).

C) EMPLOYERS' DELEGATES: MOHAMED HARRATI, PRESIDENT OF THE
MOROCCAN FEDERATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

D) EMPLOYER ADVISORS: MOHAMED MJID, PRESIDENT OF THE SAFI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY; FAICAL CHRAIBI, SECGEN, GENERAL
ECONOMIC CONFEDERATION OF MOROCCO (GROUPING OF MOROCCAN
INDUSTRIALISTS); ABDERRAHIM GHARBAOUI, DIRECTOR OF THE MOROCCAN
FEDERATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

E) WORKER DELEGATE: MAHJOUB BEN SEDDIK, SECGEN MOROCCAN TRADE
UNION FEDERATION (UMT) (NOTE: SEDDIK SAID HE WOULD ATTEND TOWARD
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END OF CONFERENCE.)

F) WORKER ADVISORS: ABDERRAZAK AFFILAL, SECRETARY GENERAL OF
GENERAL UNION OF MOROCCAN WORKERS (UGTM); HACHMI BENNANI, UMT;
ABDELKADER AWAB, UMT.
ANDERSON

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